

NEW STRAINS OF SACCHARAOTHRIX, PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING ^{PRAVASTATIN} ~~PRAVASTAIN~~ USING THE STRAINS AND
ISOLATION PROCESS OF (HMG)-COA REDUCTASE

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to two new microorganism strains of *Saccharothrix*, designated as YS-44442 and YS-45494, a process of producing pravastatin using the strains, and an improved process for isolation of (HMG)-CoA reductase inhibitors.

Background of the invention

10 It has been recognized that an elevated blood cholesterol level is one of the major risk factors to atherosclerotic diseases, specifically to coronary heart diseases. The monitor for the cholesterol biosynthesis is very helpful to control the diseases. 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl (HMG)-CoA reductase is the rate-limiting enzyme in the cholesterol biosynthesis. By
15 inhibiting the activity of (HMG)-CoA reductase, blood cholesterol levels in the bodies can be effectively reduced.

 A number of (HMG)-CoA reductase inhibitors have been discovered, such as pravastatin, compactin, lovastatin. They have the following formula in the lactone form and may exist in other forms such as the acid
20 form or and the salts and esters thereof.